

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
MARSHALL DIVISION**

HOWLINK GLOBAL LLC,

§

Plaintiff,

§

v.

§

Case No. 2:22-cv-00040-JRG-RSP
(LEAD CASE)

AT&T, INC, et al.,

§

Defendants.

§
§

FIRST AMENDED DOCKET CONTROL ORDER

Before the Court is the Joint Motion to Amend the Docket Control Order. Dkt.

No. 101. After due consideration, the Court **GRANTS** the motion. It is therefore **ORDERED** that the following schedule of deadlines is in effect until further order of the Court:

| Original Deadline | New Deadline | Event |
|-------------------|--------------|---|
| August 7, 2023 | Unchanged | *Jury Selection - 9:00 a.m. in Marshall, Texas |
| July 10, 2023 | Unchanged | *If a juror questionnaire is to be used, an editable (in Microsoft Word format) questionnaire shall be jointly submitted to the Deputy Clerk in Charge by this date. ¹ |
| July 7, 2023 | Unchanged | *Pretrial Conference - 9:00 a.m. in Marshall, Texas before Judge Roy Payne |

¹ The Parties are referred to the Court's Standing Order Regarding Use of Juror Questionnaires in Advance of *Voir Dire*.

| Original Deadline | New Deadline | Event |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---|
| June 26, 2023 | Unchanged | *Notify Court of Agreements Reached During Meet and Confer The parties are ordered to meet and confer on any outstanding objections or motions in limine. The parties shall advise the Court of any agreements reached no later than 1:00 p.m. three (3) business days before the pretrial conference. |
| June 26, 2023 | Unchanged | *File Joint Pretrial Order, Joint Proposed Jury Instructions, Joint Proposed Verdict Form, Responses to Motions in Limine, Updated Exhibit Lists, Updated Witness Lists, and Updated Deposition Designations |
| June 14, 2023 | Unchanged | Serve Objections to Rebuttal Pretrial Disclosures |
| June 19, 2023 | Unchanged | *File Notice of Request for Daily Transcript or Real Time Reporting. If a daily transcript or real time reporting of court proceedings is requested for trial, the party or parties making said request shall file a notice with the Court and e-mail the Court Reporter, Shawn McRoberts, at shawnmcroberts@txed.uscourts.gov . |
| June 14, 2023 | Unchanged | File Motions in Limine The parties shall limit their motions in limine to issues that if improperly introduced at trial would be so prejudicial that the Court could not alleviate the prejudice by giving appropriate instructions to the jury. |
| June 7, 2023 | Unchanged | Serve Objections to Pretrial Disclosures; and Serve Rebuttal Pretrial Disclosures |
| May 22, 2023 | Unchanged | Serve Pretrial Disclosures (Witness List, Deposition Designations, and Exhibit List) by the Party with the Burden of Proof |
| May 15, 2023 | Unchanged | *Response to Dispositive Motions (including Daubert Motions). Responses to dispositive motions that were filed prior to the dispositive motion deadline, including Daubert Motions, shall be due in accordance with Local Rule CV-7(e), not to exceed the deadline as set forth in this |

| Original Deadline | New Deadline | Event |
|--------------------------|---------------------|--|
| | | Docket Control Order. ² Motions for Summary Judgment shall comply with Local Rule CV-56. |
| May 1, 2023 | Unchanged | *File Motions to Strike Expert Testimony (including Daubert Motions) No motion to strike expert testimony (including a Daubert motion) may be filed after this date without leave of the Court. |
| May 1, 2023 | Unchanged | *File Dispositive Motions No dispositive motion may be filed after this date without leave of the Court. Motions shall comply with Local Rule CV-56 and Local Rule CV-7. Motions to extend page limits will only be granted in exceptional circumstances. Exceptional circumstances require more than agreement among the parties. |
| April 27, 2023 | Unchanged | Deadline to Complete Expert Discovery |
| April 13, 2023 | Unchanged | Serve Disclosures for Rebuttal Expert Witnesses |
| March 20, 2023 | Unchanged | Serve Disclosures for Expert Witnesses by the Party with the Burden of Proof |
| March 13, 2023 | Unchanged | Comply with P.R. 3-7 (Opinion of Counsel Defenses) |
| March 13, 2023 | Unchanged | Deadline to Complete Fact Discovery and File Motions to Compel Discovery |
| February 24, 2023 | Unchanged | *Claim Construction Hearing- 9:00 a.m. in Marshall, Texas before Judge Roy Payne |
| February 10, 2023 | Unchanged | *Comply with P.R. 4-5(d) (Joint Claim Construction Chart) |
| N/A | February 9, 2023 | If Plaintiff serves a reply expert declaration with its Reply Claim Construction Brief, then Defendants/Intervenors may file a sur-reply claim construction brief of no more than ten pages on this date. Defendants/Intervenors may also submit a sur-reply expert declaration in support of any such brief on this date. |

² The parties are directed to Local Rule CV-7(d), which provides in part that “[a] party’s failure to oppose a motion in the manner prescribed herein creates a presumption that the party does not controvert the facts set out by movant and has no evidence to offer in opposition to the motion.” If the deadline under Local Rule CV 7(e) exceeds the deadline for Response to Dispositive Motions, the deadline for Response to Dispositive Motions controls.

| Original Deadline | New Deadline | Event |
|-------------------|--------------|--|
| February 3, 2023 | Unchanged | *Comply with P.R. 4-5(c) (Reply Claim Construction Brief). Plaintiff may also submit a reply expert declaration in support of its brief on this date. |
| January 27, 2023 | Unchanged | Comply with P.R. 4-5(b) (Responsive Claim Construction Brief). Defendants/Intervenors may also submit an expert declaration in support of their brief on this date. |
| January 13, 2023 | Unchanged | Comply with P.R. 4-5(a) (Opening Claim Construction Brief) and Submit Technical Tutorials (if any). Plaintiff may also submit an expert declaration in support of its brief on this date. Good cause must be shown to submit technical tutorials after the deadline to comply with P.R. 4-5(a). |
| January 13, 2023 | Unchanged | Deadline to Substantially Complete Document Production and Exchange Privilege Logs Counsel are expected to make good faith efforts to produce all required documents as soon as they are available and not wait until the substantial completion deadline. |
| January 6, 2023 | Unchanged | Comply with P.R. 4-4 (Deadline to Complete Claim Construction Discovery) |
| January 6, 2023 | Unchanged | File Response to Amended Pleadings |
| December 9, 2022 | Unchanged | *File Amended Pleadings It is not necessary to seek leave of Court to amend pleadings prior to this deadline unless the amendment seeks to assert additional patents. |
| December 2, 2022 | Unchanged | Comply with P.R. 4-3 (Joint Claim Construction Statement) – except for P.R. 4-3(b) |

(*) indicates a deadline that cannot be changed without showing good cause. Good cause is not shown merely by indicating that the parties agree that the deadline should be changed.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Mediation: While certain cases may benefit from mediation, such may not be appropriate for every case. The Court finds that the Parties are best suited to evaluate whether mediation will benefit the case after the issuance of the Court's claim construction order. Accordingly, the Court ORDERS the Parties to file a Joint Notice indicating whether the case should be referred for

mediation within fourteen days of the issuance of the Court's claim construction order. As a part of such Joint Notice, the Parties should indicate whether they have a mutually agreeable mediator for the Court to consider. If the Parties disagree about whether mediation is appropriate, the Parties should set forth a brief statement of their competing positions in the Joint Notice.

Summary Judgment Motions, Motions to Strike Expert Testimony, and Daubert Motions:

Motions: For each motion, the moving party shall provide the Court with two (2) hard copies of the completed briefing (opening motion, response, reply, and if applicable, sur-reply), excluding exhibits, in D-three-ring binders, appropriately tabbed. All documents shall be single-sided and must include the CM/ECF header. These copies shall be delivered to the Court within three (3) business days after briefing has completed. For expert-related motions, complete digital copies of the relevant expert report(s) and accompanying exhibits shall be submitted on a single flash drive to the Court. Complete digital copies of the expert report(s) shall be delivered to the Court no later than the dispositive motion deadline.

Indefiniteness: In lieu of early motions for summary judgment, the parties are directed to include any arguments related to the issue of indefiniteness in their briefing, subject to the local rules' normal page limits.

Lead Counsel: The Parties are directed to Local Rule CV-11(a)(l), which provides that "[o]n the first appearance through counsel, each party shall designate a lead attorney on the pleadings or otherwise." Additionally, once designated, a party's lead attorney may only be changed by the filing of a Motion to Change Lead Counsel and thereafter obtaining from the Court an Order granting leave to designate different lead counsel.

Motions for Continuance: The following excuses will not warrant a continuance nor justify a failure to comply with the discovery deadline:

- (a) The fact that there are motions for summary judgment or motions to dismiss pending;
- (b) The fact that one or more of the attorneys is set for trial in another court on the same day, unless the other setting was made prior to the date of this order or was made as a special provision for the parties in the other case;
- (c) The failure to complete discovery prior to trial, unless the parties can demonstrate that it was impossible to complete discovery despite their good faith effort to do so.

Amendments to the Docket Control Order ("DCO"): Any motion to alter any date on the DCO shall take the form of a motion to amend the DCO. The motion to amend the DCO shall include a proposed order that lists all of the remaining dates in one column (as above) and the proposed changes to each date in an additional adjacent column (if there is no change for a date the proposed date column should remain blank or indicate that it is unchanged). In other words, the DCO in the proposed order should be complete such that one can clearly see all the remaining deadlines and the changes, if any, to those deadlines, rather than needing to also refer to an earlier version of the DCO.

Proposed DCO: The Parties' Proposed DCO should also follow the format described above under "Amendments to the Docket Control Order ('DCO')."

Joint Pretrial Order: In the contentions of the Parties included in the Joint Pretrial Order, the Plaintiff shall specify all allegedly infringed claims that will be asserted at trial. The Plaintiff shall also specify the nature of each theory of infringement, including under which subsections of 35 U.S.C. § 271 it alleges infringement, and whether the Plaintiff alleges divided infringement or infringement under the doctrine of equivalents. Each Defendant shall indicate the nature of each theory of invalidity, including invalidity for anticipation, obviousness, subject-matter eligibility, written description, enablement, or any other basis for invalidity. The Defendant shall also specify each prior art reference or combination of references upon which the Defendant shall rely at trial, with respect to each theory of invalidity. The contentions of the Parties may not be amended, supplemented, or dropped without leave of the Court based upon a showing of good cause.

SIGNED this 10th day of December, 2022.



ROY S. PAYNE
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE